
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 13, 1871.

Read twice, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PROSSER, on leave, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To preserve the peace in the several States and Territories of this Union.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.*
3 That the President of the United States is hereby authorized
4 and directed, upon the passage of this act, to issue his procla-
5 mation commanding all bands, parties, associations, or organi-
6 zations, of whatever name or nature, inimical or hostile to
7 the peace and good order of this Union, or any of the citizens
8 or inhabitants thereof, whether in the States or Territories,
9 and whether the same be in mask, disguise, or otherwise, com-
10 mitting murder or any other unlawful acts, or uttering threats
11 of any kind whatsoever, to disband their several organizations
12 or associations, to desist from the commission of their unlawful
13 acts, and in all respects to conduct themselves as peaceable
14 and law-abiding citizens.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if the President
2 shall have information that in any county or counties of any
3 State in this Union, or in any of the Territories thereof, after
4 the expiration of thirty days from the issuing of such procla-
5 mation, any person or persons, either singly or in groups or
6 parties, shall go upon the highway, or upon the premises of
7 any citizen or citizens of the United States, masked or dis-
8 guised, or otherwise making threats by word or deed,
9 or committing any unlawful acts of any kind what-
10 soever, the President, in his discretion shall have power to de-
11 clare such county or counties, or such Territory in a state
12 of insurrection and rebellion: *Provided*, That the local au-
13 thorities thereof shall be unable or unwilling, or, from any
14 cause whatever, shall fail to arrest and punish the perpetra-
15 tors of such unlawful acts, and shall cause them to cease and
16 be discontinued, and he is hereby authorized to declare mar-
17 tial law in such county or counties, or in such Territory where
18 these unlawful acts are committed, and to employ such of the
19 land and naval forces of the United States, and to call out
20 such militia as he may deem necessary and expedient to bring
21 offenders herein described to punishment, to restore peace,
22 and for the protection of the lives, rights, and property of
23 the citizens of the United States.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever the
2 President of the United States shall declare martial law in

3 any county or counties of any State in this Union, or in any
4 of the Territories thereof, in accordance with the provisions
5 of the foregoing sections, he shall be authorized to arrest and
6 bring to trial by court-martial any person or persons offend-
7 ing against the provisions of this act, and upon conviction
8 they shall be punished by fine, imprisonment, or death, at
9 the discretion of the court-martial.